

IV. *A new Genus of PLANTS, call'd Araliastrum, of which the famous Nin-zin or Gin-seng of the Chineses, is a Species. Communicated by Mr. Vaillant Prædemonstrator at the Royal Garden at Paris, to the Learned Dr. Will. Sherrard, LL. D. late Consul at Smyrna, and by him to the Royal Society.*

A *Raliastrum* is a Genus of Plants, whose Flower A* is complete †, regular, polypetalous, and hermaphrodite, standing on the Ovary B. The Ovary, which is crown'd by a Calyx cut into several Parts, becomes a Berry D, in which are, for the most part, two flat Seeds, like a Semicircle, which both together represent a sort of a Heart. Add to this the Stalk, which is single, ending in an Umbel of which each Ray bears but one Flower. Above the Middle of the Stalk come out several Pedicles, (as on that of the *Anemone*) on the Extremities of which grow several Leaves like Rays, or like an open Hand.

The Species of this Genus are,

1. *Araliastrum Quinquefolii folio, majus, Nin-zin vocatum D. Sarrazin. Gin-seng. Des lettres edifiantes & curieuses, Tom. X. pag. 172.*
2. *Araliastrum Quinquefolii folio, minus. D. Sarrazin. Plantula Marilandica, foliis in summo caule ternis, quorum unumquodque quinquefariam dividitur, circa margines serratis. N° 36. Raii Hist. III. 658.*

* *vid. ARALIA Inst. rei herb. Tab. 154.*

† Complete, that is to say, that has a Calyx.

3. *Araliastrum Fragrariae folio, minus*. D. Vaillant *Nasturtium Marianum Anemones sylvaticae foliis, enneaphyllum, floribus exiguis*. Pluk. Mantiss. 135. Tab. 435. Fig. 7.

To shew wherein *Araliastrum* differs from *Aralia*, (from whence it takes its Name) 'tis convenient to give also the Character of this last *Genus*, such as Mr. *Vaillant* establish'd it, in his Demonstrations of the Year 1717.

Aralia * is altogether like the *Araliastrum*, as to the Structure and Situation of its Flower ; but its Berry consists of Five Seeds plac'd round an *Axis*. Moreover, its Leaves are branched, almost like those of *Angelica* ; and its Stalks (which in some *Species* are naked, and in others have Leaves set alternately) bear each several Umbels at their top, in the Form of a Bunch of Grapes.

The Species of Aralia, are

1. *Aralia caule aphylo, radice repente*. D. Sarrazin. *Christophoriana Virginiana Zarza radicibus furcatis & fungosis, Sarsaparilla nostratibus dicta*. Pluk. Almag. 98. Tab. 238. Fig. 5. *Zarsaparilla Virginienfis nostratibus dicta, lobatis umbellifera foliis, Americana*. Ejusd. Almag. 396.
2. *Aralia caule folioso levi*, D. Sarazzin. *Aralia Canadensis*. Inst. rei Herb. 300.
3. *Aralia caule folioso & hispido* D. Sarazzin.
4. *Aralia arborescens spinosa*, D. Vaillant. *Angelica arborescens, spinosa, seu Arbor Indica, Fraxini folio, cortice spinoso* Rati Hist. II. 1798. *Christophoriana arbor aculeata Virginienfis* Pluk. Almag. 98. Tab. 20.

* vid. Inst. rei Herb. 300. Tab. 154.

All the *Species* of these two *Genera*, except the last of each of them, are common in *Canada*, whence Mr. *Sarrazin*, Counsellor in the upper Council, Physician to his Majesty, and Correspondent of the Royal Academy of Sciences. sent them to the Royal Garden first in 1700.

The Inhabitants of that Colony, and those of *Virginia*, call the first *Species* of *Aralia* by the Name of *Sarsaparilla*. because its Roots have almost the same Figure and Vertues

Mr. *Sarrazin* writes. that he had a Patient who had been cured of an *anasarca*, about two Years before, by the use of a Drink made of these Roots. That able Physician assures us also, that the Roots of the second *Species*, well boyl'd and apply'd by way of *Cataplasm*e, are very excellent for the curing of old Ulcers; as also the Decoction of them, with which they bath and syringe the Wounds. He does not at all doubt, but the Virtues of the third *Species* (which I shall briefly describe) are the same with those of the second.

Its Roots creep, and send forth Stalks, which rise commonly to the Height of a Foot and half, and sometimes to two Foot; the bottom part of them is rough, with reddish, stiff and prickling Hairs. These Stalks are set from the Bottom to almost the Top (which are divided successively into several naked Branches charg'd with Umbels) with branch'd alternate Leaves, almost like those of *Podagraria hirsuta Angelica folio* & odore D. Vaillant; which Plant is grav'd in the second Tome of *Boccone's Musaeum*, by the Name of *Cerrefolium rufoso Angelica folio, Aromaticum*. Tab. 19. and in *Rivini* by that of *Myrrhis folio Podagraria*

See the Account of the Chinese *Gin-seng*, in *Phil. Transact. Anni 1713*. p. 237.